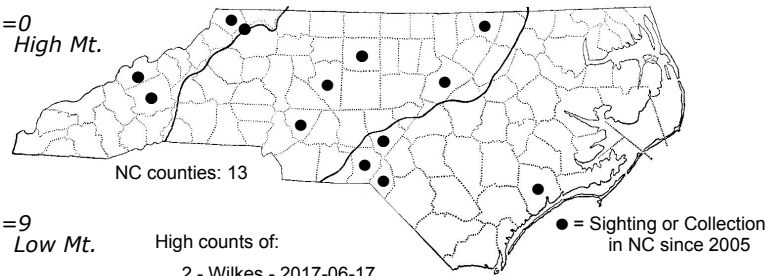
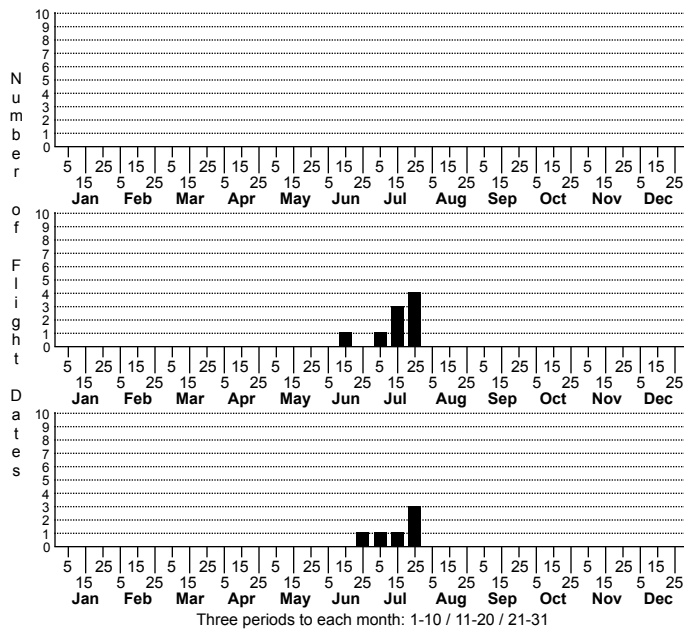


# *Aethiophysa invisalis* Invisible Crambid



High counts of:

- 2 - Wilkes - 2017-06-17
- 2 - Wilkes - 2016-07-05
- 1 - Warren - 2012-06-29

Status Rank  
NC US NC Global

FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Glaphyriinae TRIBE: [Glaphyriini]  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Aethiophysa invisalis* and *A. consimilis* cannot be distinguished based on external patterning and coloration and require genitalia for identification (Scholtens, 2017). The following is a general description that applies to both species based in part on the description of *A. consimilis* by Munroe (1964).

The frons is orange and margined anteriorly and laterally with white. The labial palp is orange and has prominent scaling on the second segment. The second and third segments are tipped with white, and the antenna is whitish buff above. Both the vertex and thorax are orange, and the ground color of the forewing is orangish brown with a faint, pale, wavy antemedial line at around two-fifths the wing length. The antemedial line is margined outwardly with a dark line of similar width. The postmedial line is similar in color but is margined inwardly with a dark line. The postmedial line begins on the costa at around two-thirds and is broadly excurved to about two-thirds the wing width, then slants basally to the inner margin. The area between the antemedial and postmedial lines is often slightly darker than the general ground color. The fringe is dull brown in the basal half and whitish buff in the distal half. A broken terminal line is usually evident that consists of a row of faint dark dots. The hindwing is faintly washed distally with the same ground color as the forewing, but is much paler in the basal, costal and anal regions. The fringe and terminal line are similar to those on the forewing.

*Aethiophysa invisalis* and *A. consimilis* are similar to *Glaphyria sequestralis* and *G. glaphyralis* and are best separated by the fringe, which is two-toned in our *Aethiophysa* species. In contrast, the fringe is evenly ochreous yellow and concolorous with the ground color in *G. sequestralis* versus evenly cream-white in *G. glaphyralis*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Aethiophysa invisalis* is found throughout much of the eastern U.S. and in Ontario. In the U.S., the range extends from Maine and other New England states southward to Florida and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Nebraska, Minnesota and extreme eastern North Dakota. In North Carolina, populations are most common in the Piedmont and lower elevations in the Blue Ridge. As of 2023, most of our records from the Coastal Plain are from the Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are active from March through November in Florida and from May through October elsewhere. In most areas of the range there is a seasonal peak from June through August. Local populations in North Carolina are univoltine with a relatively short flight period. As of 2023, our records are from early June through early August.

HABITAT: The habitats used by this species are poorly documented, but it appears to tolerate a wide range of conditions from xeric Sandhill communities to mesic hardwood slopes. Several of our records are from semi-wooded residential communities.

FOOD: Larval host plants, if any, are unknown.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species appears to be relatively secure in North Carolina.